

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): **MAKINO, et al**

Serial No.: **Rule 1.53(b) continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/656,334, filed September 8, 2003**

Filed: **Herewith**

For: **VACUUM PROCESSING APPARATUS**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

March 30, 2004

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application prior to examination thereof, as set forth herein. This paper includes the following:

Amendment to the Specification

Amendment to the Claims

Amendment to the Abstract

Remarks